



Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

On the Health of the Borough
for the Year, 1949

J. T. C. SIMS-ROBERTS,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Barrister at Law,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

W. EWART RUSE. A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
BOROUGH SANITARY INSPECTOR.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor A. West (Chairman).
Alderman J. S. Holland (The Mayor).
Councillor C. G. Cousins (Deputy Mayor).
Councillor Mrs. Arthur.
Councillor Mrs. Clarke.
Councillor Mrs. Crowley.
Councillor L. J. Bourke.
Councillor J. Burgess (Vice-Chairman).
Councillor P. J. Chamberlain.
Councillor W. Chinn.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

John T. C. Sims-Roberts,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Barrister at Law.

SANITARY INSPECTORS.

W. Ewart Ruse, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
Borough Sanitary Inspector.

Douglas Andrew, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
Additional Sanitary Inspector.

CLERICAL STAFF.

Dennis W. Rixon.
Douglas A. Keen.
Derek S. Wells.

Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
AYLESBURY,
July, 1950.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Aylesbury.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report for 1949 on the health and vital statistics of the Borough of Aylesbury.

The general standard of health in the Borough was high and the incidence of infectious disease low. There were, however, three cases of anterior poliomyelitis notified and confirmed. They were of a mild type and were admitted to infectious disease hospitals in the region prior to orthopaedic after care.

No case of enteric infection was notified, nor diphtheria.

Administration of hospital services in the district passed to the Oxford Regional Hospital Board as a result of the National Health Service Act. It has been evident during the year that this amalgamation has benefited and will benefit the district generally in increasing measure.

The most acute public health problem in the Borough is housing, and there is much still to be done to relieve the unhealthy and unhappy environment of overcrowded families.

I thank you, Mr. Mayor and Members of the Council, for your helpful co-operation, also the staff of the Public Health Department for their keen team work throughout the year.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. C. SIMS-ROBERTS,

M.B., ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	3,288 acres.
Population	19,700
Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1949 according to Rate Books)	5,473
Rateable Value	£180,057
Sum represented by a penny rate	£716

Unemployment.

At December 31st, 1948.	At December 31st, 1949.
5 women	*37 women
18 men	23 men
—	—
23	60
—	—

* Includes 19 desiring part-time employment.

Vital Statistics.

	1948.			1949.		
	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	368	210	158	339	187	152
Illegitimate	12	8	4	25	13	12
Still Births—Legitimate	9	5	4	9	5	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—

	1948.	1949.
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1949	19.52	18.48
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	19.98	18.93

	1948.			1949.		
	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	168	70	98	201	91	107

	1948.	1949.
Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population	8.63	10.20
Standardised Death Rate—	10.61.	

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

	1948.			1949.		
	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	5	4	1	6	4	2
Illegitimate	1	—	1	2	2	—
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 2

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:—

	1948.	1949.
All infants per 1,000 live births	15.79	21.98
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	83.33	80.00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	13.59	17.70

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS.

	M.	F.	Total.
Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	1	3	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer	23	17	40
Diabetes	1	—	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	8	16	24
Heart Disease	22	29	51
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	7	8	15
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Pneumonia	5	6	11
Other Respiratory Disorders	4	2	6
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	1	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	1	1
Other Digestive Disorders	3	2	5
Nephritis	—	2	2
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis ...	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	2	1	3
Congenital Malformation, etc.	3	3	6
Suicide	1	1	2
Road Traffic Accidents	4	—	4
Other Violent Causes	—	—	—
All Other Causes	5	14	19
Totals	94	107	201

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals.

The Royal Bucks and Tindal General Hospitals provide hospital accommodation for the Borough. Cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.

These hospitals are now administered by the Aylesbury and District Hospital Management Committee.

The Stoke Mandeville Hospital, controlled by the Ministry of Pensions, admit cases if bed space is unavailable at the General hospitals.

Pathological Specimens.

The majority of examinations of specimens are carried out at the Pathology Laboratory, situated at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital; specimens are also submitted to the Public Health Service Laboratories at Luton and Oxford.

Ambulance Services of the Borough.

Three ambulances are stationed in the Borough which are used in the town and surrounding district for accident and other cases.

An ambulance garaged at the Isolation Hospital is used solely for transporting infectious disease cases.

The Bucks County Council, as Local Health Authority, is responsible for ambulance services, which includes a hospital car service operated in conjunction with the Women's Voluntary Service.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

All Maternity and Child Welfare services in the Borough are controlled by the Bucks County Council. Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Welfare Centre, Pebble Lane, every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

A dental clinic for school children is also situated on these premises.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Special sessions have been held on one day each month during the year at the Pebble Lane Centre for the immunisation of school children; seventy-two children attended, thirty-two receiving the full course of injections and forty a reinforcing dose.

The Bucks County Council now administer the immunisation services, and their policy is to treat school children at their schools, and children under 5 years at Infant Welfare Centres.

No case of diphtheria has occurred in the Borough for the fourth year in succession.

Treatment of Venereal Disease.

Free treatment is provided at the Royal Bucks Hospital for persons suffering from venereal disease. This Clinic is administered by the Aylesbury and District Hospital Management Committee.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The water supply for the Borough is drawn from wells belonging to the Bucks Water Board which are situated on the Chiltern Hills.

Thirteen water samples were taken during the year from various domestic sources in the Borough and the reports on all samples were satisfactory.

All houses in the Borough are supplied direct from the public water mains.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage of the Borough is partially on the separate system with surface water from streets and buildings in various parts being discharged to water courses. The whole system is in a satisfactory condition.

Sewage from low lying districts is raised into the main sewers by means of pumping stations situated at Buckingham Road, California, Mandeville Road and Tring Road.

Sewage Disposal.

The Sewage Disposal Works situated at Griffin Lane near the boundary of the town continues to function satisfactorily.

Public Conveniences.

The public conveniences in the Borough are under the control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Conveniences for both sexes are situated at the Vale Ground (High Street) and in Kingsbury Square. A gentlemen's convenience adjoins the Cattle Market and temporary urinals are situated in Walton Road and Upper Hundreds.

Public Cleansing.

This work has been carried out satisfactorily throughout the year by the Borough Surveyor's Department.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following inspections and visits were made during 1949:—

Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	574
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	97
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	277
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	114
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	26

Open-Air Swimming Pool, Park Street.

Six samples of water were taken from the Swimming Pool during the Summer months and all proved that the chlorination plant was being efficiently used for treatment of the water.

The children's Paddling Pool in the Vale Ground is supplied periodically with chlorinated water from the Swimming Pool.

Indoor Swimming Bath, Bourbon Street.

These premises are only used for slipper baths; there have been no complaints from this source during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Only seventeen rooms were disinfested against bed bugs during the year and on each occasion D.D.T. dust and/or liquids were used.

Schools.

The schools in the Borough are in good sanitary condition and all are provided with a sufficient water supply.

The Abbey Road County School, situated off the Bicester Road, was opened during the year. This school is used by children between 5 and 8 years of age residing in Quarrendon Estate, Bicester Road and the adjoining area.

Local Rainfall.

JANUARY	0.705 inches	JULY	2.73 inches
FEBRUARY	1.03 "	AUGUST	1.12 "
MARCH	1.33 "	SEPTEMBER	0.765 "
APRIL,	1.56 "	OCTOBER	6.08 "
MAY	2.065 "	NOVEMBER	2.60 "
JUNE	0.79 "	DECEMBER	1.36 "

Total rainfall for the year—22.135 inches.

(Figures supplied by Mr. J. D. Dugdale, Borough Engineer and Surveyor).

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Pasteurisation of milk is carried out on a large scale by the Aylesbury Co-operative Society and Messrs. Nesmilk, Ltd., both premises being equipped with "holder" type plants. Sixteen samples were taken up to October 1st to ensure that the plants were working satisfactorily.

After this date the control of these plants was transferred by virtue of Section 4 of The Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, to the

Bucks County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority in this area.

The following dealers are licensed to sell "designated" milks in the Borough:—

"Tuberculin Tested."

Aylesbury Co-operative Society, Ltd., High Street, Aylesbury.
 F. J. Child, 156, Cambridge Street, Aylesbury.
 Messrs. Dickens & Warner, 8, Albion Street, Aylesbury.
 W. Cartwright, 61, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury.
 F. J. Davis, 207, Aylesbury Road, Bierton.
 L. J. Evett, 99, Park Street, Aylesbury.
 W. Hodgkins, 87, Wendover Road, Aylesbury.
 R. Lanchbury, Hadley Herd Dairy, Hartwell.
 J. Lisley & Son, 83, Tring Road, Aylesbury.
 Nestle's Milk Products, Ltd., High Street, Aylesbury.
 R. S. Pearce, Stoke Farm, Stoke Mandeville.
 S. W. Walker, Burcott House, Bierton.
 A. Warren, St. John's Street, Aylesbury.
 A. Willis, 3, Tindal Road, Aylesbury.
 Willis Bros., 2, Ascott Road, Aylesbury.

"Pasteurised."

Aylesbury Co-operative Society, High Street, Aylesbury.
 W. Cartwright, 61, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury.
 F. J. Davis, 207, Aylesbury Road, Bierton.
 Dickens & Warner, 8, Albion Street, Aylesbury.
 L. J. Evett, 99, Park Street, Aylesbury.
 W. Hodgkins, 87, Wendover Road, Aylesbury.
 R. Lanchbury, Hadley Herd Dairy, Hartwell.
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 S. W. Walker, Burcott House, Bierton.
 A. Warren, St. John's Street, Aylesbury.
 A. Willis, 3, Tindal Road, Aylesbury.
 Willis Bros., 2, Ascott Road, Aylesbury.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1,530	635	1,838	5,216	156
Number inspected	1,530	635	1,838	5,216	156
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	3	11	6	16	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	612	202	16	244	35
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	40.20%	33.54%	1.20%	4.98%	23.72%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	10	35	2	0	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	198	134	1	0	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	13.59%	26.61%	0.16%	—	7.69%

Centralised slaughter of animals is carried out under Government control at the Silver Lane Slaughter-house.

Fifteen slaughtermen's licences have been issued during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following are details of the notifications of infectious disease received during 1949:—

Disease.	Total cases received.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	21	16	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	1	—	—
Measles	56	4	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	4	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Polio- myelitis	3	—	3	—

**Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year,
with Analysis under Age Groups.**

	0—1 yr.	1—2 yrs.	2—3 yrs.	3—4 yrs.	4—5 yrs.	5—10 yrs.	10—15 yrs.	15—20 yrs.	20—35 yrs.	35—45 yrs.	45—65 yrs.	Over 65 yrs.	Totals.
Measles	1	11	8	8	7	17	3	—	1	—	—	—	56
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1	2	10	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	21
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3
Anterior Polio-myelitis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

25 visits were made to infected premises.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 —	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	1	—	—
5 —	1	1	—	—
15 —	2 (1)	4 (1)	—	—
25 —	3 (1)	—	—	2 (1)
35 —	3 (1)	—	—	—
45 —	4 (1)	—	—	—
55 —	—	—	1	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—
	13	6	1	2

The figures in brackets denote the number of cases notified originally in other districts and who have moved into the Borough during the year, and are included in the above totals and respective age groups.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Total.
M.	F.	M.	F.	
1	3	—	—	4

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Informal action has been taken where necessary under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, and the Public Health Act, 1936, to remedy contraventions of the requirements of these Acts in mechanical and non-mechanical factories and workplaces.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provision as to health.

PREMISES.	Inspections.	No. of	
		Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories without mechanical power	89	1	Nil
Factories with mechanical power ...		4	Nil

2. Defects found.

PARTICULARS	Number of defects.			
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	In respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1)	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding (Sec. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (Sec. 3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:—				
(Sec. 7)				
Insufficient	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—
Other offences against the Act	—	—	—	—
Total	5	5	—	—

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises.

Nine visits were made to outworkers' premises, the only defect found being an insanitary W.C. pan which was replaced.



Borough of Aylesbury

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Borough Sanitary Inspector

1949.

Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,

AYLESBURY.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the principal activities of the Public Health Department during the year 1949.

NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTIONS OF BYELAWS, ETC.

Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	...	111
Nuisances, etc., found	...	...	...	...	53
Nuisances, etc., abated	...	...	...	...	43
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	24
Informal Notices served under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	21
Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	1

The prosecution was in respect of a nuisance at premises in Cambridge Street and resulted in the issue of a Nuisance Order by the Court. The Court Order was not complied with and eventually the work was carried out by the Council, the cost of such work being recoverable from the owner.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936 & 1949.

It was not practicable to resume routine inspections under the above Acts, but 201 inspections and 237 re-inspections have been carried out. 25 informal and 9 Statutory Notices, have been served in respect of housing repairs. In four instances Statutory Notices were not complied with and the work was carried out by the Local Authority, the costs being recoverable from the owners.

One house was voluntarily closed and demolished by the owner as being a dangerous structure, and action was commenced in the case of five further houses which were found to be unfit and not capable of being rendered fit at reasonable expense.

Under the 1949 Act the powers of inspection and enforcement of repairs are extended to all houses by the omission of the expression "Working Classes" with reference to houses.

In certain circumstances owners may obtain grants from the Local Authority towards the cost of conversion of buildings into dwellings or the improvement of existing houses.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Mechanical Factories on the Register requiring visiting ...	56
Non-mechanical Factories on the register requiring visiting	34
Visits paid to Factories	89

The above figures do not include Bakehouses.

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register	13
Visits made	26
Notices served re cleansing, etc.	26

The general standards of cleanliness and hygiene in the bakehouses of the town continue to be satisfactory.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number on Register	17
Visits made	114
Notices served re cleansing, etc.	22

The above figure re premises relates to the period to October 1st, 1949.

On that date the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, came into force and the control of cowsheds and producers of milk passed from the Local Authority to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

At the same time, Milk and Dairies Regulations were issued which will necessitate the registration of all premises, other than farms, used as dairies, and all persons engaged in the distribution of milk other than producers.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1949.

Two new Orders were issued covering:—

1. Raw Milk, and
2. Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk.

The effect of these is that the licensing of "Tuberculin Tested" and "Accredited" producers passes to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the licensing of pasteurising establishments passes to the County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority for this district.

The Borough Council will continue to issue licences to distributors to retail designated milk.

The following licences were issued in 1949:—

By the County Council—

- 1 "Tuberculin Tested" Producer.
- 1 "Accredited" Producer.

By the Borough Council—

- 2 " Pasteuriser's " licences.
- 3 " Tuberculin Tested " Bottlers' licences.
- 12 " Tuberculin Tested " Dealers' licences.
- 13 " Pasteurised " Dealers' licences.

Samples were taken during the year from the plants and on delivery to the consumer to ensure that the requirements of the Orders were being complied with.

In future, plant samples will be taken by the County Council, but it will still be necessary to take samples on delivery to the consumer to ensure that the milk as delivered complies with the relevant Regulations.

The number of milk samples taken during the year was 41.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND FOOD SUPPLY.

Slaughterhouse visits 574

The number of animals slaughtered during the year was as follows:

	Bulls.	Steers.	Heifers.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
1st Qtr.	20	55	80	98	350	611	38	1,252
2nd Qtr.	21	198	87	93	154	1,085	33	1,671
3rd Qtr.	9	285	285	183	491	1,294	43	2,590
4th Qtr.	15	218	257	261	843	2,226	42	3,862
	65	756	709	635	1,838	5,216	156	9,375

All the above animals were inspected after slaughter.

The following unsound food was surrendered during 1949:

Cow Beef	...	...	...	...	...	19,478	lbs.
Cow Offals	...	...	...	...	...	12,800	"
Other Beef	...	...	...	...	...	7,442	"
Other Bovine Offals	...	...	...	...	...	14,317	"
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	928	"
Pork Offals	...	...	...	...	...	588	"
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	1,150	"
Mutton Offals	...	...	...	...	...	767 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Veal	...	...	...	...	...	598	"
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	9,570 $\frac{3}{4}$	"
						67,639	lbs.

Total 30 tons, 3 cwt., 3 qtrs., 19 lbs.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding		Sheep &		
	Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1,530	635	1,838	5,216	156
Number inspected	1,530	635	1,838	5,216	156
All diseases except					
Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	11	6	16	2
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	612	202	16	244	35
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	40.20%	33.54%	1.20%	4.98%	23.72%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned	10	35	2	0	2
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	198	134	1	0	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	13.59%	26.61%	0.16%	—	7.69%

The Government controlled system of centralised slaughter of animals continued during the year, and whilst it is impossible to forecast the future system of slaughtering, it is extremely doubtful whether the old system of individual slaughter-houses will ever return.

The Slaughterhouse at present in use is one of the old private slaughterhouses, and despite certain modifications and adaptations which have been carried out, is inadequate for the purpose, particularly during the period of maximum killing from September to December. The work of inspection at these times is very difficult owing to the congestion which arises, and to the length of time of slaughter, which often extends to 10 p.m., and later. At this time of the year all inspection has to be carried out in artificial light. If it is desired to retain the slaughtering of animals in Aylesbury, I feel it is essential to press for permission to proceed with the erection of a modern abattoir in the Borough.

The Inter-Departmental Committee on Meat Inspection set up by the Government visited the slaughterhouse in the course of their investigation, and it will be interesting to see their comments on it.

Two cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* were confirmed in December, both in animals consigned from Buckingham. This followed several instances in which samples from suspected cases were not confirmed on microscopic examination. It is rather surprising that although several instances have been reported from other slaughterhouses of *Cysticercus*

Bovis in cattle from the Aylesbury Collecting Centre, no such instance has been found at the slaughterhouse here, despite routine inspection for its detection. Meat affected with this parasite is not lost, as cold storage for a period of 21 days is sufficient to render the meat safe for consumption.

The percentage of cows affected with tuberculosis has shown a slight increase, and again underlines the necessity for the compulsory pasteurisation of milk to render it safe for consumption.

Fifteen slaughtermen's licences were issued during the year.

FOOD SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS, ETC.

The following inspections were carried out during the year :-

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	97
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	22
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	195
Greengrocers	...	...	...	.....	...	7
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	28
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	25

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

During the year circular letters were addressed to Cafés and Restaurants and to Ice Cream Dealers drawing attention to the importance of cleanliness and sterility, particularly in regard to plates, crockery, cutlery, and serving utensils, and setting out suggested detergent and sterilising agents and methods of use.

During the latter part of the summer a fly destruction service for foodshops was put into operation with considerable success.

Following a circular letter from the Ministry of Health regarding local schemes for publicising the need for cleanliness in the handling of food, it was decided to explore the possibility of commencing a Hygienic Food Traders' Guild in the Borough.

A meeting was held on November 22nd when some seventy of the local food traders and their employees attended and unanimously voted in favour of the formation of a Guild. The various trade organisations were asked to nominate representatives to serve on an Advisory Committee, and it is hoped that the Guild will be actively working early in the New Year.

ICE CREAM.

Sales of Ice Cream increased during the year, and the number of persons licensed to manufacture and retail the commodity also increased.

All manufacturers and retailers were advised by letters and personal visits on methods of cleaning and sterilising their equipment. One hundred and seventy visits were made to ice cream premises; 51 bacteriological samples were taken, and 28 samples for fat content.

A certain amount of difficulty with regard to the sterilisation of equipment was experienced in the early summer, but with one exception this was satisfactorily dealt with. In the outstanding case, although no pathogenic organisms have been demonstrated, the product is not as pure, bacterially, as it should be, and efforts are still being made in collaboration with the manufacturer to find and eliminate the source of contamination.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit and

Mixtures	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Licences issued for the storage of Carbide of Calcium	...									2
Inspections of Petrol and Carbide Stores	...	...	...	...						66
Quantity Licensed to be stored:										
Petroleum Spirit	...	...	...	...						135,364 gallons
Petroleum Mixtures	...	...	...	...						200 gallons
Carbide of Calcium	...	...	...	...						336lbs.
Total fees received for the above licences										£47/10/-

It was found that the register of Petroleum Stores was in many instances inaccurate and the necessary inspections have been made to bring this up to date.

CANAL BOATS.

Very limited use was made of the Aylesbury Arm of the canal during the year, and only four boats were inspected. During the summer duck weed again became prevalent and complaints were made regarding it. Representations were made to the Docks and Inland Waterways Executive, and an interview was held with the Area Engineer, when it was stated that the only real remedy was increased traffic on the Arm.

SHOPS ACTS.

This again presented little difficulty to the Department during the year, all shops closing well before the hours allowed by the Act.

The Report of the Gowers Committee published during the year contains several suggestions of far reaching implication and action to implement the report by new legislation is awaited with interest.

Nine visits were made under this heading during the year.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Few complaints were received of misuse or abuse of the Public Conveniences in the town, and the cleanliness and general standard of the conveniences was maintained at a high level.

The High Street Conveniences continue to be kept open all night.

Initial steps were taken for the provision of two new conveniences at Southcourt, and it is hoped that these will be ready for use during the ensuing year.

Visits made during the year totalled 333.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919. RODENT INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

The services afforded by the Council under this heading have been fully utilised during the year, as shown by the following figures of work carried out.

Private houses treated	... ..	477
Business premises treated	... ..	55
Estimated number of rats killed	...	5,221
Number of rat bodies recovered	...	595
Number of mice bodies recovered	...	402
Visits by the Sanitary Inspectors	...	77

It is surprising that many householders are unaware that a free service for rat and mouse destruction is offered by the Council and publicity in this direction might result in further applications for assistance. The figures indicate that the incidence of rat and mouse infestation does not fluctuate to any great extent, and continued efforts are necessary to avoid an increase in their numbers.

Co-operation with the business premises in the town is good, the costs of all such work being recovered. One case of infestation is proving very difficult to eradicate, and in spite of intensive efforts for several months has not yet been successfully dealt with.

Two service treatments of the sewers were made, 39 man-holes being treated with an estimated kill of 40.

WATER SUPPLY.

Monthly samples of water were taken from the town supply and submitted to the Pathology Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville Hospital for bacteriological examination during the year, the results showing that the standard of the supply was satisfactory.

Following complaints of hardness of the water, 20 samples were taken and analysed for this purpose, the results showing that the hardness at that time fluctuated rather widely.

Enquiries revealed that there was delay in obtaining the requisite softening material at one of the plants, but the position improved and has remained fairly satisfactory since.

DISINFESTATION.

Only seventeen rooms were found to be in need of disinfestation during the year, compared with thirty-nine last year and sixty in 1947. From these figures it is evident that the D.D.T. solutions and powders used are highly efficacious, and it would appear that we can shortly look forward to having a vermin free town.

OTHER INSPECTIONS.

In addition to the visits set out under their respective headings in other parts of the report, the following general inspections were made:—

Market Stalls	1,148
Drainage Inspections	253
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	225
Moveable Dwellings	37
Restaurant Kitchens	25
Smoke Observations	8
Marine Stores	5
Infected House Visits	25

GENERAL.

I am pleased to report that D. Rixon was successful in obtaining his Sanitary Inspector's Certificate during the year.

D. Keen is continuing his studies for the Examination, and D. Wells, who is showing satisfactory progress, has commenced a course in Building Construction as a necessary preliminary to taking the Sanitary Inspector's Course.

Finally, I wish to express thanks to members of the Council for their help and encouragement, to members of my staff for their loyal co-operation and to my fellow officers for advice and assistance.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

W. EWART RUSE, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,
Borough Sanitary Inspector.

